

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An image processing device for emphasizing a contrast of an image taken by an image sensor composed of a plurality of light-sensor circuits each representing a unit pixel and comprising a photoelectric converting element for producing a sensor current proportional to a quantity of incident light falling thereon, a MOS type transistor having a logarithmic output characteristic in a weak inverse state for converting the sensor current produced by the photoelectric converting element into a voltage signal, and an initializing means for initializing the sensor circuit by removing electric charge accumulated in the parasitic capacity of the photoelectric converting element by changing a drain voltage of the MOS type transistor to a level lower than a normal for a specified period, and an outputting means for outputting an image signal having a logarithmic response characteristic at a large sensor current and a sensor signal having a non-logarithmic response characteristic at a small sensor current,

wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided equally into a plurality of continuous divisions, and the an image data from the image sensor is converted by using a conversion table into image data with emphasis of a change in brightness in each of the divisions to represent the luminous distribution like in a gray level contour line map.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein a whole brightness area of an image is divided into a plurality of continuous divisions, wider for a

dark portion and narrower for a light portion desirable to be emphasized in contrast, and a continuous change in brightness in each of the divisions is emphasized.

4. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided into a plurality of discrete divisions and a change in brightness in each of the divisions separately emphasized.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) An image processing method for emphasizing the a contrast of an image taken by an image sensor composed of a plurality of light-sensor circuits each representing a unit pixel and comprising a photoelectric converting element for producing a sensor current proportional to a quantity of incident light falling thereon, a MOS type transistor having a logarithmic output characteristic in a weak inverse state for converting the sensor current produced by the photoelectric converting element into a voltage signal, and an initializing means for initializing the sensor circuit by removing electric charge accumulated in the parasitic capacity of the photoelectric converting element by changing a drain voltage of the MOS type transistor to a level lower than a normal for a specified period, and an outputting means for outputting an image signal having a logarithmic response characteristic at a large sensor current and a sensor signal having a non-logarithmic response characteristic at a small sensor current,

comprising the steps of dividing equally a whole luminous area of an image into a plurality of continuous divisions and converting data of the image from the image sensor by using a conversion table into image data with an emphasis on a change in brightness in each of the divisions to represent the luminous distribution like in a gray level contour line map.

8. (canceled)
9. (original) An image processing device as defined in claim 7, wherein a whole brightness area of an image is divided by the conversion table into a plurality of continuous divisions, wider for a dark portion and narrower for a light portion desirable to be emphasized in contrast, and a continuous change in brightness in each of the divisions is emphasized.
10. (currently amended) An image processing device as defined in claim 7, wherein a whole luminous area of an image is divided by the conversion table into a plurality of discrete divisions and a change in brightness in each of the divisions is separately emphasized.
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)